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Gerwatowski

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(54) **TERMINAL POSITION ASSURANCE WITH DUAL PRIMARY LOCK REINFORCEMENT AND INDEPENDENT SECONDARY LOCK**

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(51) **Int. Cl.**

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H01R 13/422	(2006.01)
H01R 13/436	(2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***H01R 13/424*** (2013.01); ***H01R 13/4223*** (2013.01); ***H01R 13/4362*** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
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USPC 439/595, 352, 744, 750–752
See application file for complete search history.

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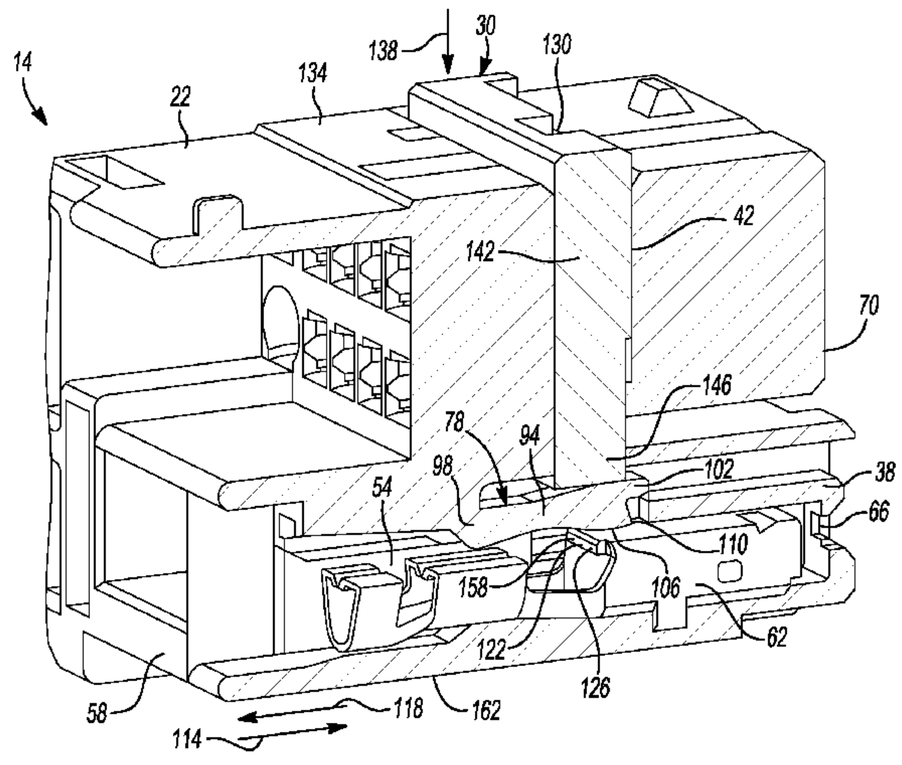
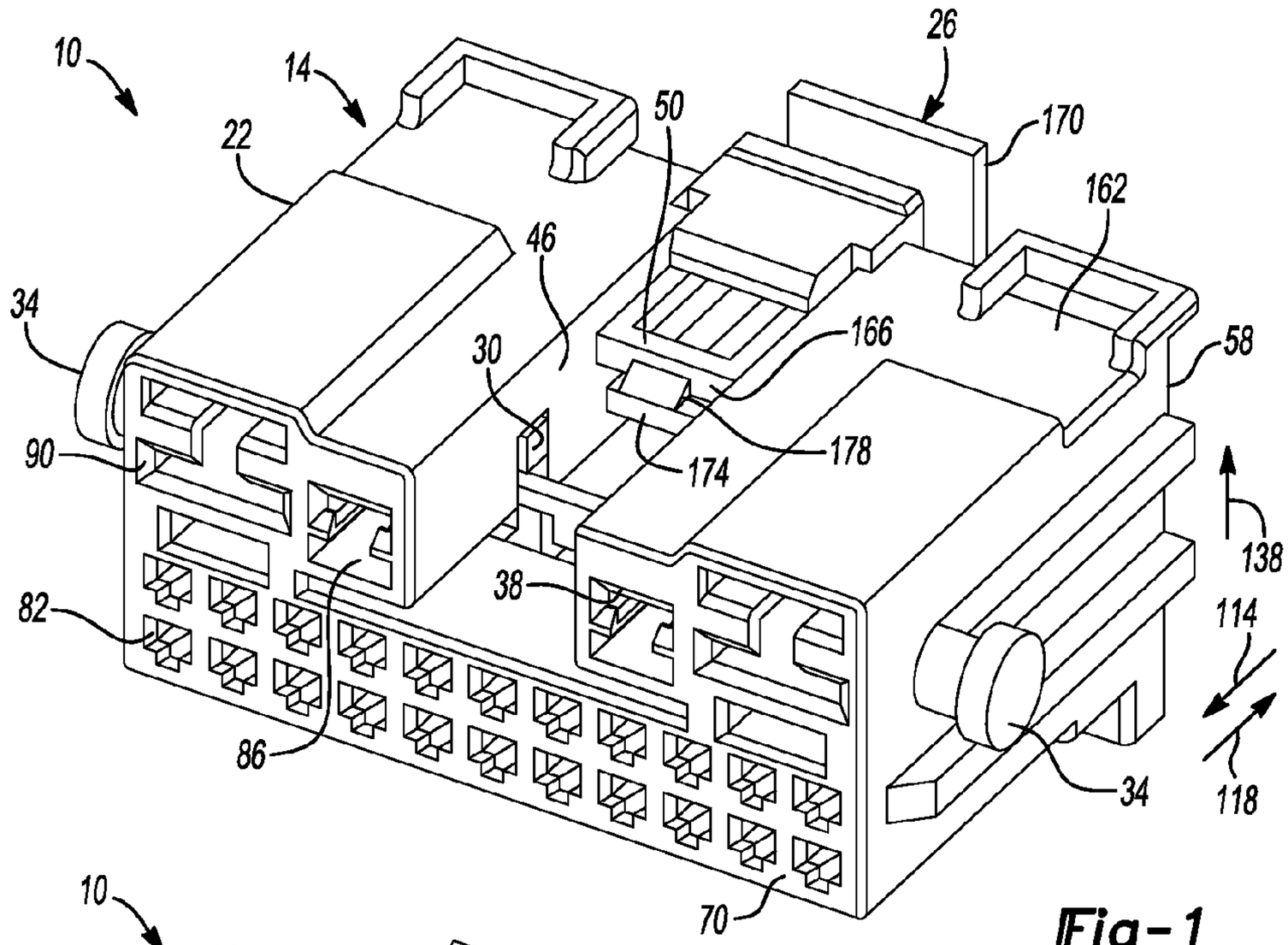
(57) **ABSTRACT**

The present teachings provide for a connector including a first body and an assurance body. The first body defines a first locking member, a cavity and a slot. The cavity accepts a terminal inserted therein to a first distance. The slot extends into the first body and intersects the cavity. The first locking member is configured to prevent withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is inserted to the first distance. The assurance body is movable between a preset and a full set position within the slot, and includes a reinforcing member and a second locking member. The full set position, the reinforcing member limits movement of the first locking member to prevent the withdrawal of the terminal, and the second locking member extends into the cavity to prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the first locking member.

20 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

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22
50
26
170
162
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166
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178
138
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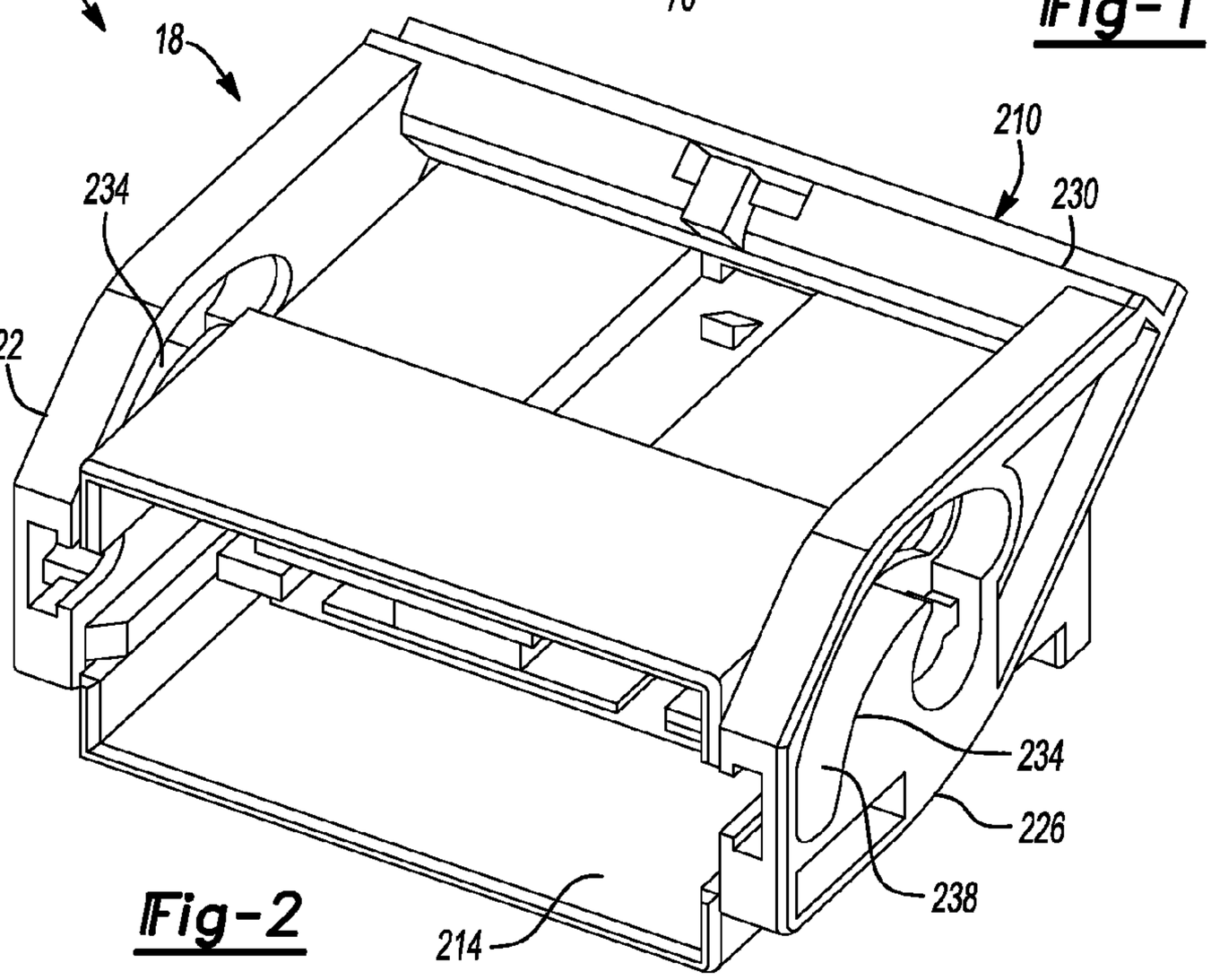
86
34
118
70

Fig-1


10
18
210
234
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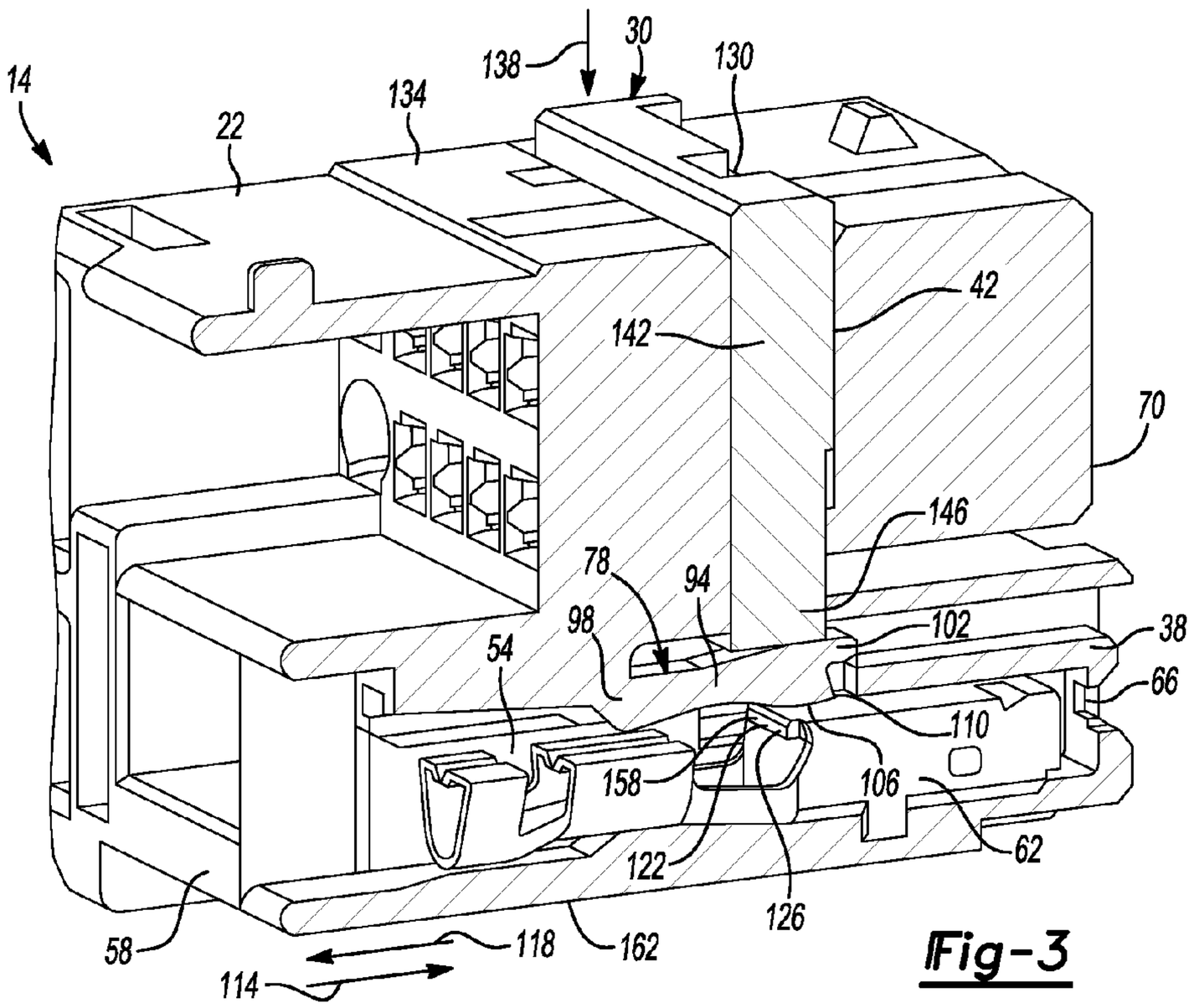
238
214

Fig-2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122
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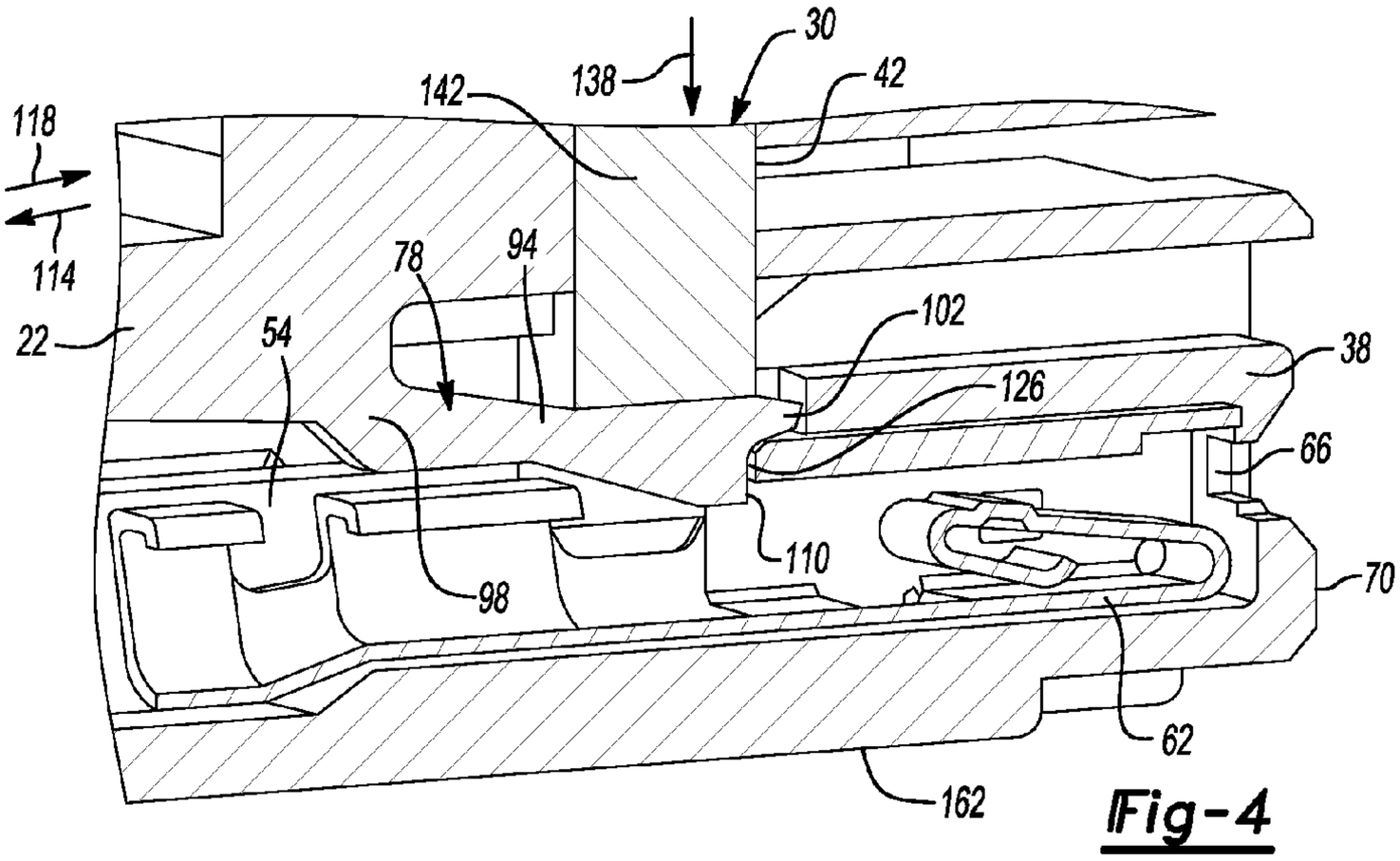
118
162
114

Fig-3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22
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102
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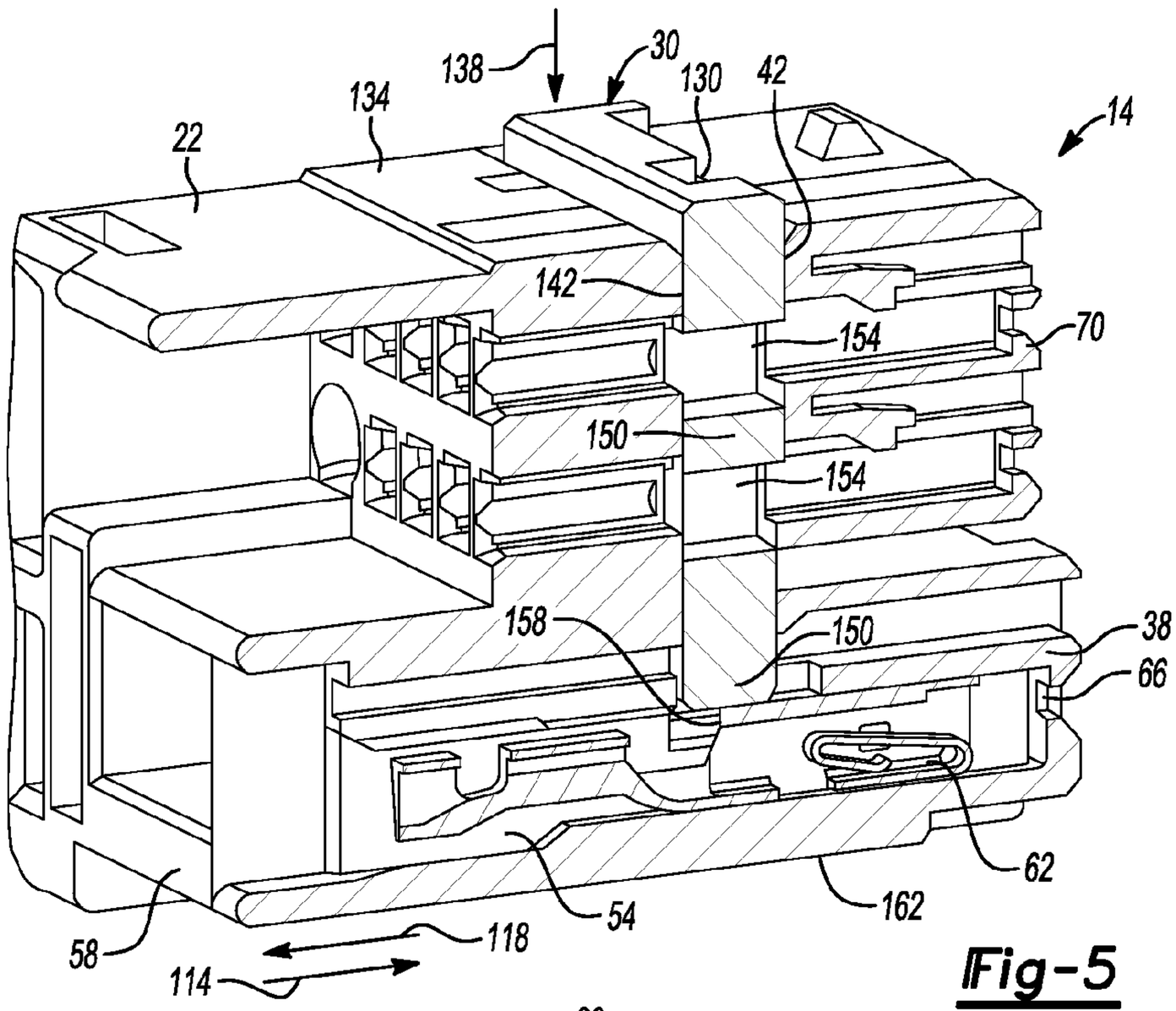
98
62
162

Fig-4


138
30
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42
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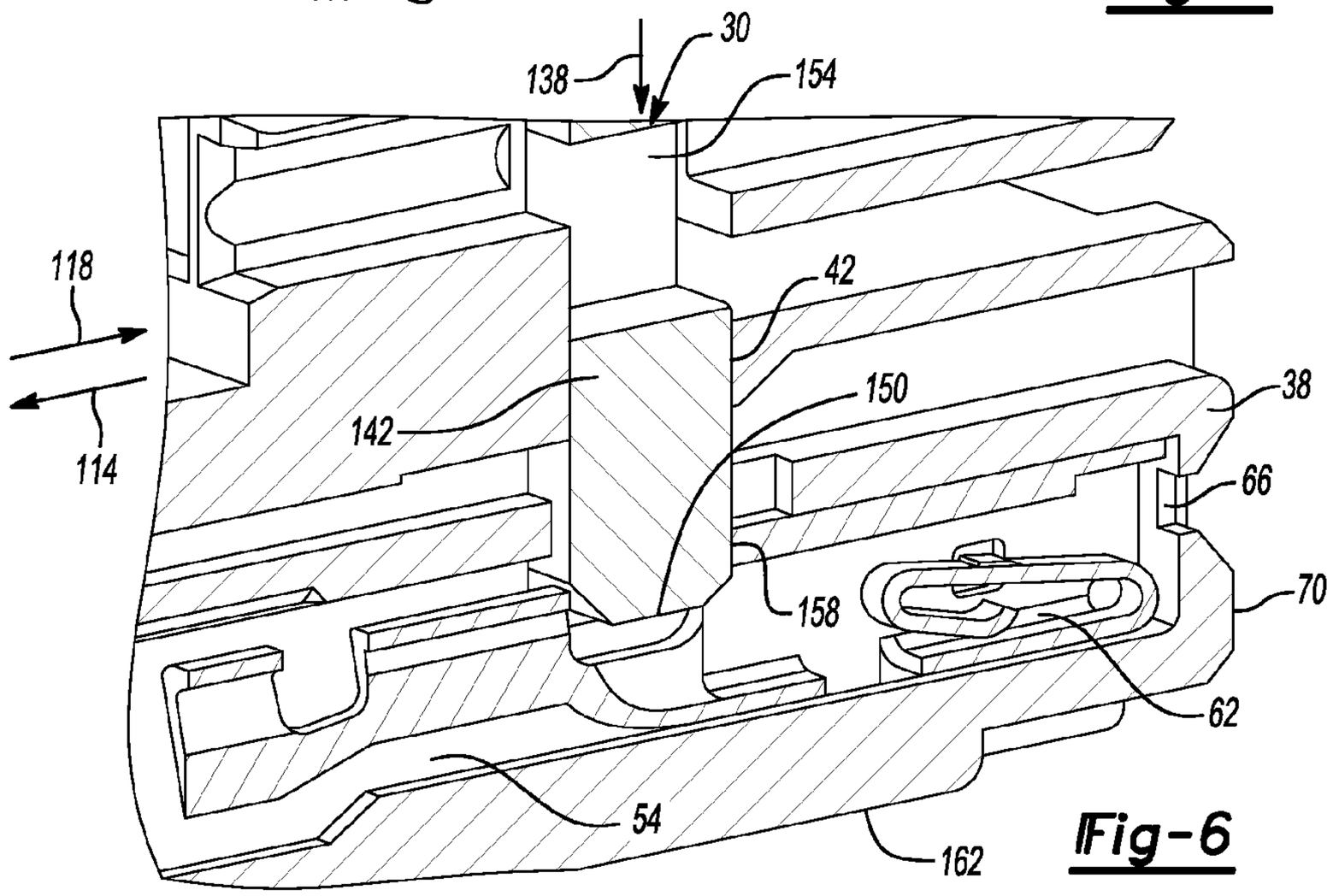
14
22
142
154
70
150
158
150
38
66
62
54
162
58
118
114

Fig-5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30
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118
42
142
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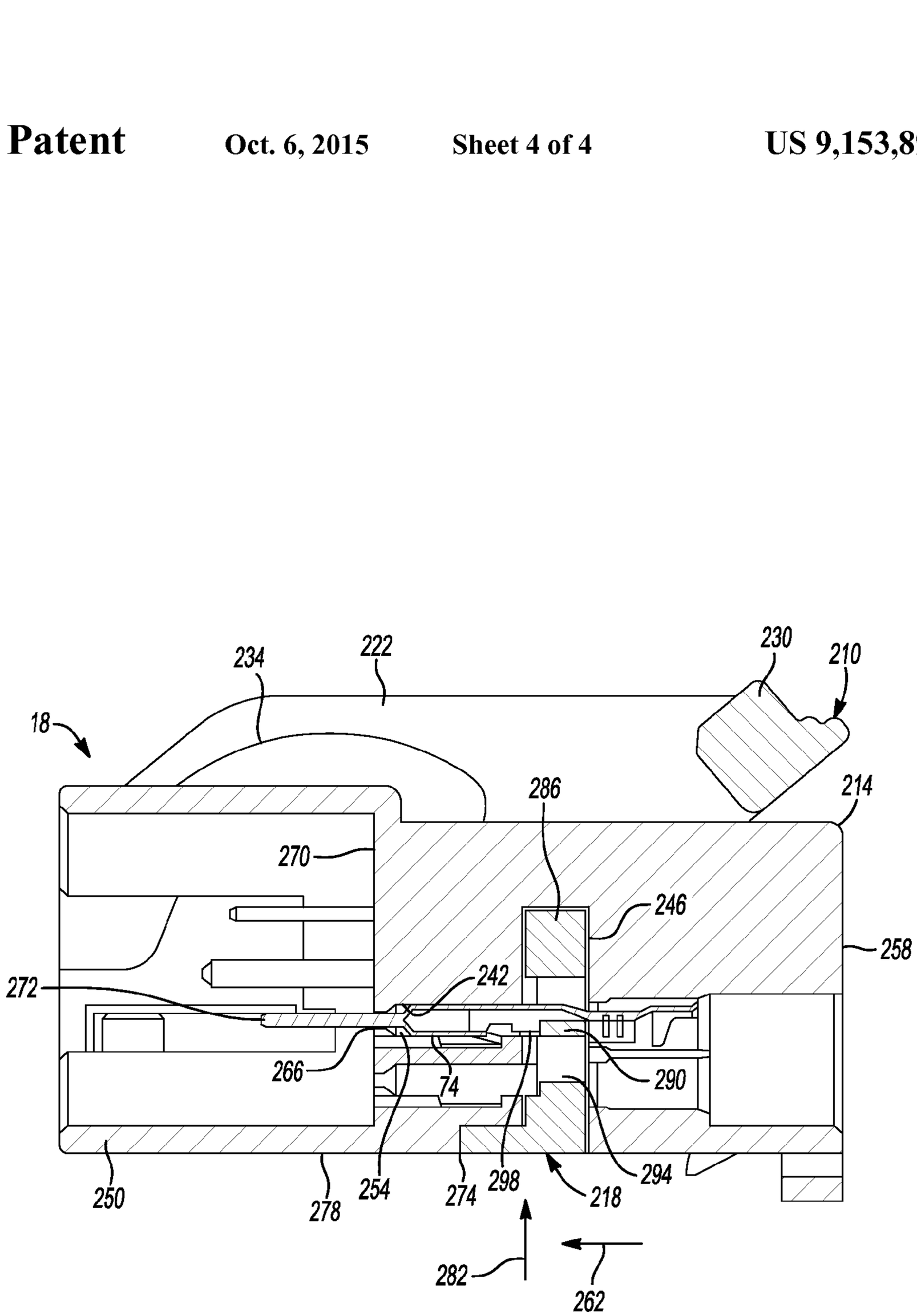
38
66
158
70
62
54
162
114

Fig-6


234
222
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210
18
214
286
270
246
258
272
242
266
74
290
250
278
254
274
298
218
294
282
262

Fig-7

TERMINAL POSITION ASSURANCE WITH DUAL PRIMARY LOCK REINFORCEMENT AND INDEPENDENT SECONDARY LOCK

FIELD

The present disclosure relates to terminal position assurances with dual primary lock reinforcement and independent secondary lock.

BACKGROUND

This section provides background information related to the present disclosure which is not necessarily prior art.

Terminal position assurances are generally classified as one of two types—a primary lock reinforcement ("PLR"), or an independent secondary lock ("ISL"), both with their advantages and disadvantages. A PLR reinforces a primary locking mechanism, but should the primary locking mechanism fail, the PLR does not provide a redundant lock to keep the terminal in the housing. Thus a PLR does not increase terminal to connector retention. An ISL provides an additional securing function independent of the primary locking mechanism, but an ISL does not back up the primary locking mechanism and can have problems detecting partially seated terminals when the terminal is near its lockup position. Including a PLR and a separate ISL can increase the size, weight, complexity, and cost of the connector assembly.

SUMMARY

This section provides a general summary of the disclosure, and is not a comprehensive disclosure of its full scope or all of its features.

The present teachings provide for a connector including a first housing assembly. The first housing assembly includes a first body and an assurance body. The first body defines a first locking member, a cavity, and a slot. The cavity is configured to accept a terminal inserted therein from a first side of the first body to a first distance from the first side. The slot extends into the first body from a second side and intersects the cavity. The first locking member is coupled to the first body and extends into the cavity to prevent withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is inserted to the first distance. The assurance body is slideably inserted into the slot and movable between a preset position and a full set position within the slot. The assurance body includes a reinforcing member and a second locking member. When the assurance body is in the full set position, the reinforcing member is configured to limit movement of the first locking member to prevent the withdrawal of the terminal from the cavity, and the second locking member extends into the cavity to limit movement of the terminal and prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the first locking member.

The present teachings further provide for a connector including a first housing assembly. The first housing assembly has a terminal, a first body, and an assurance body. The first body defines a resilient arm, a cavity, and a slot. The cavity is configured to accept the terminal inserted therein from a first side of the first body. The slot intersects the cavity from a second side of the first body substantially perpendicular to the first side. The resilient arm is moveable between a first position and a second position. The resilient arm is coupled to the first body at a first end and freely extending therefrom to a second end. The second end extends into the cavity when in the first position and prevents withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity.

The resilient arm cooperates with the terminal to move the resilient arm to the second position when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity. The assurance body is slideably inserted into the slot and movable between a preset position and a full set position. The assurance body includes a reinforcing member and a locking member. The reinforcing member is configured to prevent the resilient arm from moving to the second position when the assurance body is in the full set position. The locking member is configured to extend into the cavity and prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the resilient arm when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity and the assurance body is in the full set position. The terminal prevents the assurance body from being moved to the full set position when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity.

The present teachings also provide for a connector including a first housing assembly having a terminal, a first body, a resilient arm, and an assurance body. The first body defines a cavity and a slot. The cavity is configured to accept the terminal inserted therein in a first direction. The slot is substantially perpendicular to the cavity and intersects the cavity. The resilient arm is coupled to the first body at a first end and freely extends therefrom in the first direction to a second end. The resilient arm is moveable between first and second positions and includes a locking surface and a ramp surface extending into the cavity when in the first position. The locking surface is configured to prevent withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity and the resilient arm is in the first position. The ramp surface is configured to slideably engage the terminal during insertion to move the resilient arm to the second position. The resilient arm is biased to return to the first position when the terminal is fully inserted therein. The assurance body is slideably inserted into the slot and movable into between a preset position and a full set position. The assurance body includes a reinforcing member and a locking member. The reinforcing member is configured to prevent the resilient arm from moving to the second position when the assurance body is in the full set position. The locking member is configured to extend into the cavity to prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the resilient arm when the terminal is fully inserted and the assurance body is in the full set position. The reinforcing member is configured to prevent the assurance body from being moved into the full set position when the resilient arm is in the second position. The terminal prevents the assurance body from being moved into the full set position when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity by engaging the locking member.

Further areas of applicability will become apparent from the description provided herein. The description and specific examples in this summary are intended for purposes of illustration only and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

DRAWINGS

The drawings described herein are for illustrative purposes only of selected embodiments and not all possible implementations, and are not intended to limit the scope of the present disclosure.

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a first housing assembly of a connector in accordance with the present teachings;

FIG. **2** is a perspective view of a second housing assembly of the connector;

FIG. **3** is a cut-away perspective view of the first housing assembly of FIG. **1** in a preset position;

FIG. **4** is a detailed view of the first housing assembly of FIG. **3** in a full set position;

FIG. **5** is a cut-away perspective view of the first housing assembly of FIG. **3**;

FIG. **6** is a detailed view of the first housing assembly of FIG. **5** in a full set position; and

FIG. **7** is a cross section view of the second housing assembly of FIG. **2**.

Corresponding reference numerals indicate corresponding parts throughout the several views of the drawings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Example embodiments will now be described more fully with reference to the accompanying drawings.

The present teachings are directed toward a connector with a primary lock, a primary lock reinforcement ("PLR"), and an independent secondary lock ("ISL") to ensure terminals remain properly positioned within the connector. The primary lock and ISL generally act to prevent withdrawal of the terminal from the connector, while the PLR generally acts to reinforce the primary lock. The connector also allows a user to detect improperly positioned terminals, as will be discussed in further detail. The connector can mate with a mating connector to allow for the transfer of electrical current therebetween, such as for transferring power and/or information signals for example. While electrical terminals are described, it is also contemplated that the terminals and any cables connected thereto may be capable of transferring information in other ways, such as through fiber optic connections for example.

With initial reference to FIGS. **1** and **2**, a connector **10** can include a first housing assembly **14** and a second housing assembly **18**. The first housing assembly **14** can be configured to mate with the second housing assembly **18** to allow for electrical connections to be made between wires (not shown) leading into the first and second housing assemblies **14**, **18**.

With reference to FIGS. **1** and **3**, the first housing assembly **14** can include a first body **22**, a connector assurance device **26**, and a terminal position assurance ("TPA") **30**. The first body **22** can define a pair of follower members **34**, a plurality of bays **38**, and a terminal position assurance slot ("TPA slot") **42**. The first body **22** can also define a connector assurance channel **46**, and a connector assurance retainer **50**. Each follower member **34** can be coupled to an opposite side of the first body **22** and extend therefrom perpendicular to the sides.

Each of the bays **38** can define a cavity **54** open on a rear, or first side **58** of the first body **22** to receive a terminal **62** inserted from the rear side **58**. Each bay **38** can define a mating aperture **66** on a front, or second side **70** of the first body **22** to allow the terminal **62** inserted within the bay **38** to mate with mating terminals **74** (shown in FIG. **7**) housed in the second body **214**, as will be described in further detail below. At least one of the bays **38** can also define a primary locking member **78**. The terminals can be electrically coupled to wires (not shown), which extend from the rear side **58** of the first body **22** when the terminals **62** are inserted therein. The bays **38** can be arranged in a one or two dimensional array with adjacent bays **38** being side by side, and/or above or below each other. The bays **38** can also be of different sizes and shapes to accept different size or types of terminals **62**. In the example provided, the connector **10** has bays **38** configured to receive 1.2 mm, 2.8 mm, and 6.3 mm terminals in a 22P×1.2+2P×2.8+2P×6.3 configuration. The first body **22** defines two rows of eleven 1.2 bays **82**. The first body **22** defines two 2.8 bays **86** and two 6.3 bays **90** located above the two rows of 1.2 bays **38**. The two 2.8 bays **86** are located between the two 6.3 bays **90**. However, additional or fewer bays of different types and/or sizes and in different configurations can be used.

With reference to FIGS. **3** and **4**, the primary locking member **78** can be configured to prevent withdrawal of the terminal **62** from the bay **38** to secure the terminal **62** within the cavity **54**. While FIGS. **3** and **4** of the example illustrate the primary locking member **78** of the 2.8 bay **86** and the terminal **62** being a corresponding 2.8 terminal, it is understood in the following discussion that the primary locking member **78** can be similarly situated in any of the bays **38** to engage other types or sizes of terminals **62**. The primary locking member **78** can include an arm **94** having a fixed end **98** coupled to the first body **22**, and a free end **102** extending freely therefrom. The fixed end **98** can be coupled to the first body **22** proximal to the rear side **58** and the free end **102** can extend substantially toward the front side **70**. It is also contemplated that the fixed end **98** could be coupled to the first body **22** proximal to a side other than the rear side **58**, such as the front side **70** for example, and the free end **102** could extend therefrom to another side, such as the rear side **58** for example. The arm **94** can be moveable between a first position (shown in FIG. **4**) and a second position (shown in FIG. **3**). The arm **94** can be a resilient material such that it moves between the first and second positions by bending or flexing, and can bend or flex to pivot about the fixed end **98**. The free end **102** can include a ramp **106** and a locking step **110**. In the first position, the ramp **106** and locking step **110** can extend into the cavity **54**.

During insertion of the terminal **62** into the cavity **54**, the terminal **62** is inserted into the cavity **54** from the rear side **58** and moved in a first direction **114** toward the front side **70**. The arm **94** can be biased toward the first position such that the arm **94** is initially extending into the cavity **54**. The terminal **62** can be moved in the first direction **114** or a second direction **118** opposite the first direction **114**, until the terminal reaches a first terminal position, a first distance from the rear side **58**. At the first terminal position, the ramp **106** is configured to engage the terminal **62** such that the terminal **62** slides along the ramp **106** and forces the arm **94** to move toward the second position. When the arm **94** is in the second position, the terminal **62** is free to move in either the first direction **114** or the second direction **118**. The terminal **62** can be moved in the first direction **114** to a second terminal position (shown in FIG. **4**), a second distance from the rear side **58**. In the second terminal position, a shoulder **122** of the terminal **62** allows the arm **94** to move from the second position to the first position due to the bias of the arm **94** toward the first position. When the arm **94** is in the first position, and the terminal **62** is in the second terminal position, the step **110** is configured to oppose and interfere with a first location **126** on the shoulder **122** to prevent the terminal **62** from moving in the second direction **118** and prevent the terminal **62** from being withdrawn from the cavity **54**. The terminal **62** can be considered completely inserted when in the second terminal position.

The TPA slot **42** can define an aperture **130** open on a third side **134** of the first body **22**, being substantially perpendicular to the front and rear sides **70**, **58** and can extend into the first body **22** in a third direction **138**, substantially perpendicular to the first direction **114**. The TPA slot **42** can extend into the first body **22** and penetrate into at least one of the bays **38**. The TPA slot **42** can penetrate through some or all of the bays **38**. The TPA slot **42** can be configured to receive the TPA **30** inserted therein from the third side **134**.

The TPA **30** can be slideably inserted into the TPA slot **42** and movable within the TPA slot **42** between a preset position (shown in FIGS. **3** and **5**) and a full set position (shown in

FIGS. **4** and **6**). The TPA **30** can include a TPA body **142**, at least one primary lock reinforcement member ("PLR member") **146**, and at least one independent secondary lock member ("ISL member") **150**. When the bays **38** are arranged above or below each other, the TPA body **142** can define a plurality of TPA aperture **154**. When in the preset position, the plurality of TPA aperture **154** align with the plurality of cavities **54** to allow the plurality of terminals **62** to be inserted into the cavities and through the TPA body **142**. Once the plurality of terminals **62** are fully inserted into the plurality of bays **38**, and through the TPA aperture **154**, the TPA **30** can be moved to the full set position. The PLR member **146** can be coupled to the TPA body **142** and can be integrally formed thereon. The PLR member **146** can be located on the TPA body **142** such that in the preset position, the primary locking member **78** is free to move between the first and second positions, while in the full set position, the PLR member **146** is configured prevent the primary locking member **78** from moving to the second position. In this way, the PLR member **146** reinforces the primary locking member **78** to prevent the step **110** from disengaging the shoulder **122** when the terminal **62** is in the second terminal position.

The PLR member **146** can also serve to detect an incompletely inserted terminal **62**. When the terminal **62** is inserted within the cavity between the first terminal position and the second terminal position, such that the terminal **62** is inserted more than the first distance and less than the second distance, the primary locking member **78** is articulated away from the first position and toward the second position as explained. When the primary locking member **78** is articulated away from the first position, the primary locking member **78** is configured to oppose and interfere with the PLR member **146** to prevent the TPA **30** from being moved to the full set position. Thus the articulated primary locking member **78** serves as a stop between the TPA **30** and the terminal **62**, and the inability to move the TPA **30** to the full set position indicates an incompletely inserted terminal **62**. The TPA **30** can include a plurality of the PLR members **146** to reinforce a plurality of the primary locking members **78** corresponding to a plurality of the bays **38**, while detecting as few as one incompletely inserted terminal **62** among the plurality of bays **38**.

With reference to FIGS. **5** and **6**, the ISL member **150** can be coupled to the TPA body **142** and can be integrally formed thereon. The ISL member **150** can be located such that when the TPA **30** is inserted in the TPA slot **42**, the ISL member **150** extends further in the third direction **138** than the PLR member **146**. While FIGS. **5** and **6** of the example illustrate the ISL member **150** of the 2.8 bay **86** and the terminal **62** being a corresponding 2.8 terminal, it is understood throughout the discussion that the ISL member **150** can be similarly situated in any of the bays **38** to engage other types or sizes of terminals **62**. The ISL member **150** can be located on the TPA body **142** such that in the preset position, the ISL member **150** does not inhibit the terminal **62** from moving in the first or second direction **114**, **118** while in the full set position, the ISL member **150** is configured to oppose and interfere with a second location **158** on the terminal **62** to prevent the terminal **62** from moving in the second direction **118** and prevent the terminal **62** from being withdrawn from the cavity **54**. In the example provided, the second location **158** is located at a different location along the same shoulder **122** to which the primary locking member **78** is configured to engage the terminal **62**. However, the second location **158** can be a location other than the same shoulder **122** to which the primary locking member **78** engages. The ISL member **150** is configured to engage the second location **158** to secure the terminal **62** independent of the primary locking member **78**. Thus, if a failure occurs in the primary locking member **78**, the ISL member **150** will still secure the terminal **62** in the proper position within the cavity **54** and prevent its withdrawal.

The ISL member **150** can also serve to detect an incompletely inserted terminal **62**. When the terminal **62** is inserted within the cavity **54** between the first terminal position and the second terminal position, such that the terminal **62** is inserted more than the first distance and less than the second distance, the terminal **62** will prevent the TPA **30** from being moved to the full set position by interfering with the ISL member **150**. Thus the terminal **62** serves as a stop between the TPA **30** and the full set position, and the inability to move the TPA **30** to the full set position indicates an incompletely inserted terminal **62**. The TPA **30** can include a plurality of the ISL members **150** to secure a plurality of the terminals **62** within a plurality of the bays **38**, while detecting as few as one incompletely inserted terminal **62** within the plurality of bays **38**. The detection capabilities of the ISL member **150** and the PLR member **146** are thus independent of each other and can independently verify a properly seated terminal **62**.

Returning to FIG. **1**, the connector assurance channel **46** can be open on the rear side **58** of the first body **22** and be configured to receive the connector assurance device **26** therein from the rear side **58**. The connector assurance channel **46** can be proximal to a top or fourth side **162** of the first body **22**, opposite the third side **134**, and can be substantially open on the second side **70** and the fourth side **162**. The connector assurance retainer **50** can extend into the connector assurance channel **46** and include a first shoulder **166**. The connector assurance device **26** can include a base **170** and a first finger **174** coupled to the base **170**. The first finger **174** can include a second shoulder **178** configured to oppose the first shoulder **166** to prevent the connector assurance device **26** from being removed from the connector assurance channel **46** once inserted therein to a predetermined distance.

With reference to FIGS. **2** and **7**, the second housing assembly **18** can include a lever **210**, a second body **214**, and a second TPA **218**. The lever **210** can include a first lever body **222** and a second lever body **226**, spaced apart and fixedly coupled at a first end of the lever bodies **222**, **226** by a lever arm **230** extending between the first and second lever bodies **222**, **226**. The first and second lever bodies **222**, **226** can be rotationally coupled to opposite sides of the second body **214**. The first and second lever bodies **222**, **226** can each define a cam groove **234** having a cam surface **238**. The cam groove **234** can be open on a second end of the lever bodies **222**, **226**, opposite the first end, to receive the follower members **34** into the cam groove **234** when the first and second bodies **22**, **214** are in a preset condition. When the follower members **34** are positioned within the cam groove **234** and the lever **210** is rotated, the cam surface **238** is configured to slideably cooperate with the follower members **34** to selectively move the first and second bodies **22**, **214** between the preset condition and a fully mated condition. In the fully mated condition, all of the terminals **62** are properly mated with their corresponding mating terminals **74**.

The second body **214** can define a plurality of second bays **242**, a second terminal position assurance slot ("second TPA slot") **246**, and a shroud **250**. Each of the second bays **242** can be substantially similar to the bays **38** of the first housing assembly, and define a second cavity **254** generally open on a rear, or first side **258** of the second body **214** to receive one of the mating terminals **74** inserted in a first direction **262**, from the rear side **258**. As discussed above, the example connector **10** has bays **38** configured to receive 1.2 mm, 2.8 mm, and 6.3 mm terminals in a 22P×1.2+2P×2.8+2P×6.3 configuration.

Thus the second bays **242** of the exemplary second body **214** are the complementary 1.2, 2.8, and 6.3 bays. Likewise, while the second bay **242** illustrated is a 1.2 bay, it is understood that the prior and following discussion applies to other bays as well. Each of the second bays **242** can define a second mating aperture **266** on a front, or second side **270** of the second body **214** to allow the mating terminal **74** inserted within the second cavity **254** to mate with one of the terminals **62** housed in the first body **22**. The second bays **242** can define a second primary locking member (not shown) substantially similar to primary locking member **78** of the first body **22**, to prevent a fully inserted mating terminal **74** from being withdrawn from the second cavity **254**. The mating terminals **74** can be electrically coupled to wires (not shown), which extend from the first side **258** of the second body **214** when the mating terminals **74** are inserted therein. The second bays **242** can be arranged in a one or two dimensional array complementary with the arrangement of bays **38** of the first body **22**, and can likewise be of different sizes and shapes to accept different sizes or types of mating terminals **74**. The mating terminals **74** can include a prong **272** configured to extend through the second mating aperture **266** and through the mating aperture **66** of the first body **22** to mate with the terminal **62** therein. In the example provided, the first housing assembly **14** is shown as the female assembly and the second housing assembly **18** is shown as the male assembly, however the first housing assembly **14** and the second housing assembly **18** can include any combination of male or female terminals **62** or mating terminals **74**. It is also understood that the lever **210** can be included on the first housing assembly **14**, while the second housing assembly **18** can include the follower members **34**. It is further understood that the lever **210** is optional and that the connector **10** can function with neither the first housing assembly **14**, nor the second housing assembly **18** including the lever **210** or follower members **34**.

The second TPA slot **246** can define an aperture **270** open on a third side **278** of the second body **214**, being substantially perpendicular to the front and rear sides **258**, **270**, and can extend into the second body **214** in a second direction **282**, substantially perpendicular to the first direction **262**. The second TPA slot **246** can extend into the second body **214** and penetrate into at least one of the second bays **242**. The second TPA slot **246** can penetrate through some or all of the second bays **242**. The second TPA slot **246** can be configured to receive the second TPA **218** inserted therein from the third side **278**.

The second TPA **218** and second TPA slot **246** can be substantially similar in structure and function as the TPA slot **42** and TPA **30** of the first housing assembly **14** described above. As such, the second TPA **218** can include a second TPA body **286**, a second PLR member (not shown) substantially similar to PLR member **146**, and at least one second ISL member **290** coupled to the second TPA body **286** to prevent a fully inserted mating terminal **74** from being withdrawn from the second bay **242**. The second TPA **218** can define second TPA aperture **294** to align with the second cavities **254** when the second TPA **218** is in a preset position. In the preset position, the mating terminals **74** can be inserted into the second cavities **254** and through the second TPA body **286** to be fully inserted within the second bays **242**. In the preset position, the second ISL member **290** does not inhibit the mating terminal **74** from moving within the second cavity **254**. Once the mating terminals are fully inserted, the second TPA **218** can be moved to a full set position. In the full set position, the second ISL member **290** can extend into the second cavity **254** to oppose and interfere with a shoulder **298** on the mating terminal **74** to prevent withdrawal of the mating terminal **74** from the second cavity **254**.

Similarly, the second ISL member **290** can also serve to detect an incompletely inserted mating terminal **74**. When the mating terminal **74** is inserted within the second cavity **254** between the first terminal position and the second terminal position, such that the mating terminal **74** is inserted more than the first distance and less than the second distance, the mating terminal **74** will prevent the second TPA **218** from being moved to the full set position by interfering with the second ISL member **290**. Thus the mating terminal **74** serves as a stop between the second TPA **218** and the full set position, and the inability to move the second TPA **218** to the full set position indicates an incompletely inserted mating terminal **74**. The second TPA **218** can include a plurality of the second ISL members **290** to secure a plurality of the mating terminals **74** within a plurality of the second bays **242**, while detecting as few as one incompletely inserted mating terminal **74** within the plurality of second bays **242**.

The shroud **250** can be configured to extend in the first direction from the perimeter of the front side **270** of the second body **214** and can extend at least beyond the prongs **272** of the mating terminals **74** to protect the prongs **272**. The shroud **250** can be configured to accept a portion of the first body **22** inserted within the shroud **250** such that the shroud **250** covers, or surrounds the portion of the first body **22** when the first and second bodies **22**, **214** are in the fully mated condition. The shroud can also cover the portion of the first body **22** when in the preset condition.

Returning to FIG. **1**, the connector assurance device **26** is configured to be inserted into the connector assurance channel **46** when the first and second bodies **22**, **214** are in the fully mated condition. When the first and second bodies **22**, **214** are between the preset condition and the fully mated condition, the first and second bodies **22**, **214** cooperate to prevent the connector assurance device **26** from being fully inserted within the connector assurance channel **46**, to indicate that the first and second bodies **22**, **214** are incompletely mated.

The foregoing description of the embodiments has been provided for purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the disclosure. Individual elements or features of a particular embodiment are generally not limited to that particular embodiment, but, where applicable, are interchangeable and can be used in a selected embodiment, even if not specifically shown or described. The same may also be varied in many ways. Such variations are not to be regarded as a departure from the disclosure, and all such modifications are intended to be included within the scope of the disclosure.

Example embodiments are provided so that this disclosure will be thorough, and will fully convey the scope to those who are skilled in the art. Numerous specific details are set forth such as examples of specific components, devices, and methods, to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the present disclosure. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that specific details need not be employed, that example embodiments may be embodied in many different forms and that neither should be construed to limit the scope of the disclosure. In some example embodiments, well-known processes, well-known device structures, and well-known technologies are not described in detail.

The terminology used herein is for the purpose of describing particular example embodiments only and is not intended to be limiting. As used herein, the singular forms "a," "an," and "the" may be intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. The terms "comprises," "comprising," "including," and "having," are

inclusive and therefore specify the presence of stated features, integers, steps, operations, elements, and/or components, but do not preclude the presence or addition of one or more other features, integers, steps, operations, elements, components, and/or groups thereof. The method steps, processes, and operations described herein are not to be construed as necessarily requiring their performance in the particular order discussed or illustrated, unless specifically identified as an order of performance. It is also to be understood that additional or alternative steps may be employed.

When an element or layer is referred to as being "on," "engaged to," "connected to," or "coupled to" another element or layer, it may be directly on, engaged, connected or coupled to the other element or layer, or intervening elements or layers may be present. In contrast, when an element is referred to as being "directly on," "directly engaged to," "directly connected to," or "directly coupled to" another element or layer, there may be no intervening elements or layers present. Other words used to describe the relationship between elements should be interpreted in a like fashion (e.g., "between" versus "directly between," "adjacent" versus "directly adjacent," etc.). As used herein, the term "and/or" includes any and all combinations of one or more of the associated listed items.

Although the terms first, second, third, etc. may be used herein to describe various elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections, these elements, components, regions, layers and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms may be only used to distinguish one element, component, region, layer or section from another region, layer or section. Terms such as "first," "second," and other numerical terms when used herein do not imply a sequence or order unless clearly indicated by the context. Thus, a first element, component, region, layer or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, region, layer or section without departing from the teachings of the example embodiments.

Spatially relative terms, such as "inner," "outer," "beneath," "below," "lower," "above," "upper," and the like, may be used herein for ease of description to describe one element or feature's relationship to another element(s) or feature(s) as illustrated in the figures. Spatially relative terms may be intended to encompass different orientations of the device in use or operation in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures. For example, if the device in the figures is turned over, elements described as "below" or "beneath" other elements or features would then be oriented "above" the other elements or features. Thus, the example term "below" can encompass both an orientation of above and below. The device may be otherwise oriented (rotated 90 degrees or at other orientations) and the spatially relative descriptors used herein interpreted accordingly.

What is claimed is:

1. A connector comprising:

a first housing assembly having:

a first body defining a first locking member, a cavity, and a slot, the cavity is configured to accept a terminal inserted therein from a first side of the first body to a first distance from the first side, the slot extends into the first body from a second side and intersects the cavity, the first locking member is coupled to the first body and extends into the cavity to prevent withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is inserted to the first distance; and

an assurance body slideably inserted into the slot and movable between a preset position and a full set position within the slot, the assurance body including a reinforcing member and a second locking member;

wherein, when the assurance body is in the full set position, the reinforcing member is configured to limit movement of the first locking member to prevent the withdrawal of the terminal from the cavity, and the second locking member extends into the cavity to limit movement of the terminal and prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the first locking member.

2. The connector of claim **1**, wherein the first locking member is movable between a first position and a second position, and the first locking member includes a locking portion extending into the cavity to secure the terminal within the cavity when in the first position, the locking portion is configured to cooperate with the terminal to move the first locking member to the second position when the terminal is inserted in the cavity less than the first distance;

wherein the reinforcing member prevents withdrawal of the terminal by preventing the first locking member from moving to the second position when the assurance body is in the full set position.

3. The connector of claim **2**, wherein the first locking member is a resilient arm, the arm being coupled to the body at a first end and freely extending therefrom to a second end, the locking portion being proximal to the second end.

4. The connector of claim **2**, wherein when the first locking member is in the second position, the reinforcing member engages the first locking member to prevent the assurance body from being moved to the full set position.

5. The connector of claim **2**, wherein the locking portion includes a ramp surface, the ramp surface is configured to slideably engage the terminal during insertion of the terminal in the cavity to move the first locking member to the second position to allow the terminal to be fully inserted in the cavity, the first locking member is configured to return to the first position when the terminal is inserted to the first distance.

6. The connector of claim **1**, wherein when the terminal is inserted in the cavity less than the first distance, the second locking member is configured to engage the terminal to prevent the assurance body from being moved to the full set position.

7. The connector of claim **1**, wherein the first body defines a plurality of the cavities for receiving a plurality of terminals, and a plurality of the first locking members extending into the plurality of cavities, and the assurance body includes a plurality of reinforcing members configured to limit movement of the plurality of first locking members and a plurality of second locking members configured to prevent withdrawal of the plurality of terminals independent of the first locking members.

8. The connector of claim **1**, wherein the first locking member and the second locking member are configured to prevent withdrawal of the terminal by engaging the terminal on a same shoulder of the terminal.

9. The connector of claim **1**, wherein the slot penetrates the cavity from a second side of the housing, the second side being perpendicular to the first side.

10. A connector comprising:

a first housing assembly having:

a terminal;

a first body defining a resilient arm, a cavity, and a slot, the cavity is configured to accept the terminal inserted therein from a first side of the first body, and the slot intersecting the cavity from a second side of the first body substantially perpendicular to the first side, the resilient arm being moveable between a first position and a second position and being coupled to the first

body at a first end and freely extending therefrom to a second end, the second end extending into the cavity when in the first position and preventing withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity, and the resilient arm cooperating with the terminal to move the resilient arm to the second position when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity; and

an assurance body slideably inserted into the slot and movable between a preset position and a full set position, the assurance body including a reinforcing member and a locking member, the reinforcing member is configured to prevent the resilient arm from moving to the second position when the assurance body is in the full set position, the locking member is configured to extend into the cavity and prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the resilient arm when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity and the assurance body is in the full set position;

wherein the terminal prevents the assurance body from being moved to the full set position when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity.

11. The connector of claim **10**, wherein the first body defines a plurality of cavities configured to receive a plurality of terminals, and includes a plurality of resilient arms configured to extend into the cavities to prevent withdrawal of the plurality of terminals, and the assurance body includes a plurality of reinforcing members configured to prevent movement of the plurality of resilient arms and a plurality of locking members configured to prevent withdrawal of the plurality of terminals independent of the plurality of resilient arms.

12. The connector of claim **10**, wherein the resilient arm and the locking member are configured to engage the terminal at a same shoulder on the terminal to prevent withdrawal of the terminal.

13. The connector of claim **10**, wherein when the resilient arm is in the second position, the reinforcing member is configured to engage the resilient arm to prevent the assurance body from being moved to the full set position.

14. The connector of claim **10**, wherein when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity, the locking member is configured to engage the terminal to prevent the assurance body from being moved to the full set position.

15. The connector of claim **10**, wherein the resilient arm includes a ramp surface, the ramp surface is configured to slideably engage the terminal during insertion of the terminal in the cavity to move the resilient arm to the second position to allow the terminal to be fully inserted in the cavity, the resilient arm is configured to return to the first position when the terminal is fully inserted therein.

16. The connector of claim **10**, further comprising a second housing assembly configured to mate with the first housing assembly, wherein the second housing assembly includes a second body, and one of the first housing assembly and the second housing assembly includes a lever, pivotably coupled to one of the first and second bodies, the lever defining a cam surface, the other of the first and second housing assemblies including a follower member, the cam surface and the follower member are configured to cooperate to selectively move the first and second housing assemblies between a preset condition and a fully mated condition when the lever is articulated.

17. A connector comprising:

a first housing assembly having:

a terminal;

a first body defining a cavity and a slot, the cavity configured to accept the terminal inserted therein in a first direction, the slot substantially perpendicular to the cavity and intersecting the cavity; and

a resilient arm coupled to the first body at a first end and freely extending therefrom in the first direction to a second end, the resilient arm is moveable between first and second positions and includes a locking surface and a ramp surface extending into the cavity when in the first position, the locking surface is configured to prevent withdrawal of the terminal when the terminal is fully inserted in the cavity and the resilient arm is in the first position, the ramp surface is configured to slideably engage the terminal during insertion to move the resilient arm to the second position, the resilient arm is biased to return to the first position when the terminal is fully inserted therein; and

an assurance body slideably inserted into the slot and movable into between a preset position and a full set position, the assurance body including:

a reinforcing member configured to prevent the resilient arm from moving to the second position when the assurance body is in the full set position; and

a locking member configured to extend into the cavity to prevent withdrawal of the terminal independent of the resilient arm when the terminal is fully inserted and the assurance body is in the full set position;

wherein the reinforcing member is configured to prevent the assurance body from being moved into the full set position when the resilient arm is in the second position, and the locking member is configured to engage the terminal to prevent the assurance body from being moved into the full set position and indicate an incompletely inserted terminal when the terminal is incompletely inserted in the cavity.

18. The connector of claim **17**, wherein the first body defines a plurality of cavities configured to receive a plurality of terminals, the housing includes a plurality of resilient arms configured to secure the plurality of terminals, and the assurance body includes a plurality of reinforcing members configured to limit movement of the plurality of resilient arms and a plurality of locking members configured to prevent withdrawal of the plurality of terminals independent of the plurality of resilient arms.

19. The connector of claim **17**, wherein the resilient arm and the locking member are configured to engage the terminal at a location positioned a same longitudinal distance along the terminal to prevent withdrawal of the terminal.

20. The connector of claim **17**, further comprising a second housing assembly configured to mate with the first housing assembly, wherein the second housing assembly includes a second body, and one of the first housing assembly and the second housing assembly includes a lever, pivotably coupled to one of the first and second bodies, the lever defining a cam surface, the other of the first and second housing assemblies including a follower member, the cam surface and the follower member are configured to cooperate to selectively move the first and second housing assemblies between a preset condition and a fully mated condition when the lever is articulated.

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